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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Production of Wire Mesh

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SUPPLEMENT REPORT NO.

1. The following six firms in Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt are assigned to the production of thin nickel-wire mesh:

   a. Tewa, VEB, in Neustadt/Orla (M 51/J 84), formerly Eilhauer Plant

   b. Baderschneider & Lenzner in Zeulenroda (M 51/K 03)

   c. Tewa, VEB, in Naguhn, Saxony-Anhalt (M 52/E 15); wire plant (formerly two private plants)

   d. VVB Machines Electric Products East (formerly Gebr. Beyer) in Grafenthal (M 51/J 51)

   e. Engineer F. Lose Plant in Meiningen (M 51/H 82)

   f. Eyring Plant in Rudolstadt (M 51/J 54) (at present not assigned due to mediocre quality products)

2. According to source the C.S. Schmidt Firm at 60 Hauptstrasse in Schwarzhausen is not assigned to this mesh production program.

3. The Gräfenthal Wire-Weaving Plant, formerly Franz Wittmann Plant, owned by Paschold, at 23 Lauensteinerweg in Gräfenthal does not produce thin meshes but only sieving screens for mills etc. This plant is therefore not linked with the mentioned production.

4. a. The firms have not yet been given a final order for 1950. They have only been instructed to continue operation. Only the Tewa Plant in Neustadt, the Baderschneider & Lenzner Plant in Zeulenroda and the Machine Electric Products East, VVB, formerly Gebr. Beyer Plant in Graefenthal, manufacture

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meshes with 10,000 openings per sq. cm. as the remaining plants do not have the required skilled labor. The possibility of manufacturing such thin meshes does not depend so much on the kind of looms but rather on the skill of the workmen.

b. The Tewa Plant in Raguhn and the Lose plant in Meiningen manufacture only meshes with 7,000 openings per square centimeter. However, the Tewa Plant in Raguhn is not producing now as the meshes it manufactured in the second half-year of 1949 were rejected for low quality. Bad reeds were responsible for this poor production.

5. The name of the female Soviet chief engineer appointed by the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry to order thin wire meshes was misspelled in a previous report due to a misunderstanding. ** The correct name is Chief Engineer Shusharina, (not Chief Engineer Shaniki), 19/21 Brunnenstrasse in Berlin, telephone number: Berlin 427 567 until 7 p.m. and Berlin 517 113 from 7 p.m. (telephone of residence). Mrs. Shusharina speaks little German.

6. All orders and instructions are given to the Tewa Firm in Neustadt. This firm distributes these orders to its own plant and to the plants of the other firms. All meshes have to be delivered to the Tewa Plant in Neustadt for testing. This was presumably arranged because the Tewa Plant in Neustadt is the oldest enterprise of this kind with the most experience and the best installations in Central Germany. Its peacetime production included meshes with 35,000 openings per sq. cm. [redacted] 25X1X

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7. a. There will be other meetings in Neustadt at the end of February 1950 to work out a compromise between the Soviet demands and the request of the firms. The Soviets want 72,000 square meters of mesh in 1950. As to the technical specifications, they wish to allow maximum warp thread shifts of 100 microns and not more than 120 weaving defects (knots, cracks etc.) on 50 square meters. The firms declared that they cannot meet these terms. If warp thread shifts of 100 microns were allowed for the 10,000-opening meshes, a warp thread of 110 microns ought to be conceded for the 7,000-opening meshes.

b. If the Soviets should accept these specifications, all firms combined could theoretically manufacture 72,000 square meters in one year. In fact, this is actually not possible in 1950 as the Tewa Plant in Neustadt, the Baderschneider & Lenzner Plant in Zeulenroda and the VVB Machines Electric Products East, Metal weaving and

Sieving Ware Plants at 29 Gerberdorferstrasse in Graefenthal have produced 10,000-opening meshes since January 1950. The looms could not be converted to the manufacture of 7,000-opening meshes before the end of the first quarter of 1950 after the raw material has run off the spools.

10,000-opening meshes can be manufactured only by these three firms. They could give a total annual output of 35,000 square meters of the specificationsmentioned.

8. The chief of the Tewa Firm, VEB, in Neustadt, Mr. Puhl, is the spokesman of the wire weaving plants. His superior, Chief Manager Jarosch of the Main Administration of Tewa in Chemnitz (M 51/K 66) is seldom present at the meetings.

9. The Soviet representatives are usually headed by Chief Engineer Mrs. Shusharina. Fedodow moved to Gera (M 51/K06) in order to supervise the wire weaving production directly. Fedodow admitted that he had to pay a fine of 20,000 marks for having accepted inadequate meshes.

10. Mr. Fedodow is believed to have formerly lived in Dresden (N 52/F 29) where he was assigned to the acceptance of weavings. He was presumably an acceptance official at the Louis Herrmann Firm. This firm is occasionally mentioned as an annoying competitor in the correspondence of the firms mentioned in para 1. It can therefore be assumed that the Louis Herrmann Firm in Dresden also manufactures thin nickel wire mesh for the Soviet Union.

11. The wire material is delivered by the following plants:

a. Nonferrous metal rolling mill in Hettstedt assigned to the Medj Soviet Corporation.

b. Vogel Rolling Mill in Berlin assigned to the Kabel Soviet Corporation.
It must be noted that the wire mesh production of all plants has to be suspended frequently because the rolling mills sometimes deliver insufficient or unusable wire (due to the change of gauges) or because there is not sufficient lamellate strip steel for the current manufacture of reeds. (After the manufacture of about 100 square meters of mesh, one reed is so worn by the friction of the passing wire that it has to be replaced.

25X1A [redacted] Comment:

a. Except for the Eyring Plant in Rudolstadt and the C.S. Schmidt Plant in Schwarzhausen (M 51/H 96) all plants indicated in para 1 and 2 were reported previously.* The Firm Louis Herrmann, Wire Weaving Plant of the VVB (Z) Tewa

at 33 Zwickauerstrasse in Dresden A 24, indicated in para 10, is mentioned for the first time as a supplier of thin nickel wire mesh.

b. The VVB (L) Machines Electric Products East, Metal Weaving and Sieving Ware Plant in Graefenthal, indicated in para 1d, is composed of two former private plants: The Gebr. Beyer Wire Weaving Plant and the Paschold Wire Weaving Plant, formerly Franz Wittmann Plant. Of these two nationalized plants only the former, the Gebr. Beyer Wire Weaving Plant, has been assigned to the thin nickel wire mesh program as can be seen from paras 3 and 4, while the former Paschold, alias Wittmann, Plant was not considered suitable for this production.

c. Chief Engineer Shusharina, female representative of the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry mentioned in para 5, was indicated in a previous report, ** (Misspelled "Shaniki"). By making the Soviet Foreign Trade Ministry a customer and recipient of the thin nickel wire mesh, production people will be induced to believe that these deliveries are no longer reparations tributes.

d. The Soviet requirements of thin nickel wire mesh for 1950 are reported in para 7 as 72,000 square meters as against only 60,000 to 70,000 square meters mentioned in previous reports. Para 7 also shows with what specifications the German plant managers are able to produce the requested amount of thin nickel wire mesh. While the Soviets demand that warp thread shifts should not exceed 90 microns in meshes of 10,000 openings per sq. cm., the Germans insist on a shift tolerance of 100 microns. The annual capacity of the three wire weaving plants, which can comply with the above-mentioned Soviet production specifications, is given as 35,000 square meters. This figure is 5,000 square meters below the capacity computed in a previous report. *

5. The indications of para 6 confirm a previous report. *** Thus it can be considered as certain that the central test station for all thin nickel wire mesh manufactured in the Soviet Zone of Germany is in the Tewa Plant, VVB (Z), formerly Eilhauer Plant in Neustadt/Orla.

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